

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the above-identified application.

The claims have been amended taking into account the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action of November 17, 2008. In particular, all remaining claims now recite silanized structure-modified silicas having octylsilyl and/or hexadecylsilyl groups attached thereto.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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